

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/540,943 Confirmation No. 3820
Applicant : Julian DE LA AZUELA et al.
Filed : March 23, 2006
TC/A.U. : 1797
Examiner : T. Lithgow

Docket No. : R.303860-1
Customer No. : 02119

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: September 1, 2009

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Election Requirement of August 7, 2009, applicants elect as follows:

Firstly, an election of species regarding the location of the separating means as follows:

I. Separating means located in a down stream container

Secondly, an election of species regarding the type of "separating means" being recited as follows:

A. filter

Thirdly, an election of species regarding how the water is removed from the outlet as follows:

a. valve controlled.

In summary, applicants elect I. + A. + a.

I.: In all the claims, the “separating means (54)” can be in a “container,” and the “container” can, in all the claims, be disposed “downstream” from the valve 53. None of claims 18 through 41 is precluded by this option. Applicants therefore believe that all of claims 18-41 are readable on species “I.”

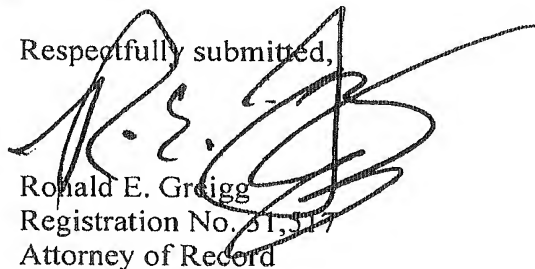
A: In the industry, a “separating means” is typically called a filter. This applies to all “separating means” for separating water and contaminants. This also applies if the water is absorbed and/or evaporated at the filter. In other words, in none of claims 18 through 41 is this option precluded. Applicants therefore believe that all of claims 18-41 are readable on species “A.”

a: In claims 34 and 35, there is a pump at the water outlet. However, this does not preclude the water outlet from being “valve controlled.” Once again applicants believe that all of claims 18-41 are readable on “a.”

Thus, applicants believe that all of claims 18-41 are readable on the elected species.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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